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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP
INTELLIGENCE REPORT

COUNTRY USSR (East Prussia)

SUBJECT

Conditions in Kaliningrad (Königsberg)

25X1A

ORIGIN

DATE:

25X1C

INFO.

DIST.

October 1947

PAGES

2

SUPPLEMENT

25X1X

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1. The restoration of all the bridges destroyed in the war began immediately upon the Russian occupation of Kaliningrad first with pontoon bridges. The old railroad bridge was also rebuilt, and the wooden bridge at Münchehof was restored. A new monument in the latter neighborhood glorifies the defeat of Nazism, and a granite obelisk in front of the Holländerbaum railroad station displays the emblem of the Soviet Republic.
2. Railroad traffic operates from the East freight station. Direct traffic to Russia also departs from there, and is handled exclusively by Russian personnel. Samland railroad traffic is handled only by Red Army trains.
3. The area of the railroad bridge, Deutscher Ordensring, the city hall, Hufenallee, Lawsker Allee, and Dieffenbachstrasse to the Pregel was surrounded with a high fence and forbidden to all entrants.
4. The cellulose factory is in operation, with 500 Russian employees and a larger number of Germans. Also operating are the Helwig wire factory and the Reuter furniture factory. The concrete plant and the paper mills, whose employees are still mostly German, are reported working satisfactorily. The German manager of the pump factory, Bleske, was transferred to the water works. Current from the cellulose factory was taken for the Russian-occupied sectors of the city.
5. News papers report frequently on reconstruction, but little actual work is to be observed. Street cars began to run again in November 1946. A long-term loan of 10,000 rubles is supposed to be available to new Russian settlers in Kaliningrad province for reconstruction of destroyed houses.
6. Living conditions continue very difficult, particularly during the winter months. The death rate in the winter of 1946-1947 was sometimes 90 persons a day, and bodies could not be buried because of the frozen ground. It was also reported that there was plague in Königsberg.

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~~Comment:~~ Another source reported ~~that~~ that tubercular plague was "raging" in Kaliningrad in June and that the death rate among the German population was "very high".)

7. Treatment of the Germans is very strict. Food ration cards are issued only to employed Germans, so that each must take care of several persons who are unemployed or incapable of work. German orphans in homes are well-fed and well-treated, but those not so cared for are utterly neglected. Russian hatred of the Germans is expressed in such ways as restriction of postal and other communications from Germany and forcing Germans to commence their applications for repatriation with "I am a German pig" (Ich bin ein deutsches Schwein.).
8. Beginning in March 1947, applications for repatriation to the Russian Zone of Germany were permitted, written in German and Russian, but only from unemployed Germans with relatives in the Russian Zone. Of the 5000 applications received, only 600 had been processed by 5 June 1947, and 100 of the permits issued were not used because they involved family separation. Accepted applicants are taken to Frankfurt/Oder or Küstrin in small transports of 30 to 40 persons. Individuals are sometimes held up in Küstrin. In addition to this officially authorized emigration, many Germans leave illegally, in spite of Russian reports that Kaliningrad Germans are contented and are not interested in repatriation.

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